

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claims 7 and 8 to remove the rejection of the claims based on 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 9 has been added to a specific embodiment which describes the driving mechanism. Applicants' claims are to a loosening jig which is for use in loosening a wire harness. Specifically, reference is made to figure 15 of the present application. The loosening jig, as now claimed, has a base plate, a fixing side clamping portion on the base plate for clamping one end of a wire harness, and a guide rail on said base plate extending in a longitudinal direction of the wire harness, when the wire harness is arranged in the wire harness loosening jig for loosening. A movable-side clamping portion is provided which is slidably engaged with the guide rail, for clamping an other end of the wire harness so that when the movable-side clamping portion is moved towards the fixing-side clamping portion the wire harness is compressed and wires disposed therein are loosened. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the references cited.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of Applicants' claims as anticipated by either Imbault (U.S. 2,177,567) or by Helm (U.S. 4,512,828) are respectfully requested in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

note (A careful review of Imbault shows that the device is for fastening pieces or members on cables and not for loosening a wire harness. The Imbault device has two clamping members 3 and 4 which are movable along rods 5 and 6 by tightening or loosening nuts on the ends of the rods.

Clamps 3 and 4 are both movable. At the right hand column of page 2, lines 1-11, it is stated:

“Jaws 3 are connected with jaws 4 through treaded rods 5 and 6 cooperating with nuts for forcing the two pairs of jaws toward each other. By tightening said bolts the two pairs of jaws are brought toward each other. The compressive action in opposite directions they exert on the portion of the cable extending between these two pairs of jaws cause the median part of said portion of the cable to swell, and wires or strands of the cable to move apart from one another.”

There is also no driving mechanism that moves the nuts, except manual power.

Applicants' claims have been amended to emphasize that a wire harness is to be loosened in the present device, not a cable, and that a base plate is provided with the guide rails being on the base plate, to further distinguish from the Imbault device.

The Helm reference is a device for positioning a cable to help splice cable end portions to each other and not a jig for loosening a wire harness. The Helm device has a clamping mechanism 56 which can be fixed (see Col. 4, lines 10-12) and a movable clamping mechanism 54 that is slidable on guide rails 32 and 34. The present amendments to claims provide that a base plate is present and that the jig is for loosening a wire harness and not, as in Helm, for positioning a cable to help splice cable end portions to each other.

In view of the present amendments to the claims, and the above remarks, Applicants' claims 7, 8 and 9 are believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **November 30, 2001**.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully Submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



William G. Kratz, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/nrp
Atty. Docket No. **960474B**
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

HA\HOMENANCY\Amendments\960474B

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE 09/621,138

7. (Amended) A wire harness [loosing] loosening jig comprising:

a base plate;

a fixing-side clamping portion on the base plate for clamping one end of a wire harness;

a guide rail on said base plate extending in a longitudinal direction of said wire harness,

when said wire harness is arranged in said wire harness loosening jig for loosening; and

a movable-side clamping portion slidably arranged with the guide rail for clamping [the]
an other end of said wire harness so that when said movable-side clamping portion is moved
towards the fixing-side clamping portion said wire harness is compressed and wires disposed
therein are loosened.

8. (Amended) [A] The wire harness [loosing] loosening jig according to claim 7, wherein
said movable-side can be moved towards the fixing-side clamping portion by a driving
mechanism.